



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian**

**Northern District of New York**

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United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that Patrick M. O'Brien, 36, of Massena, New York, pled guilty on February 6, 2012 in U.S. District Court in Syracuse to a one count Indictment charging him with theft of government monies in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641. The charge carries a maximum penalty of ten years incarceration and a fine of \$250,000.

In entering his plea, O'Brien admitted that between October 2006 and March 2007, while a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, he improperly received in excess of \$12,000 for mileage reimbursement claims to which he was not entitled by falsely representing to the U.S. Coast Guard that he had conducted 75 shore patrols along the St. Lawrence River. The court released O'Brien on his own recognizance pending sentencing scheduled for July 13, 2012.

The case was investigated by the United States Coast Guard Investigative Service, Buffalo Resident Office and prosecuted by Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney John G. Duncan

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